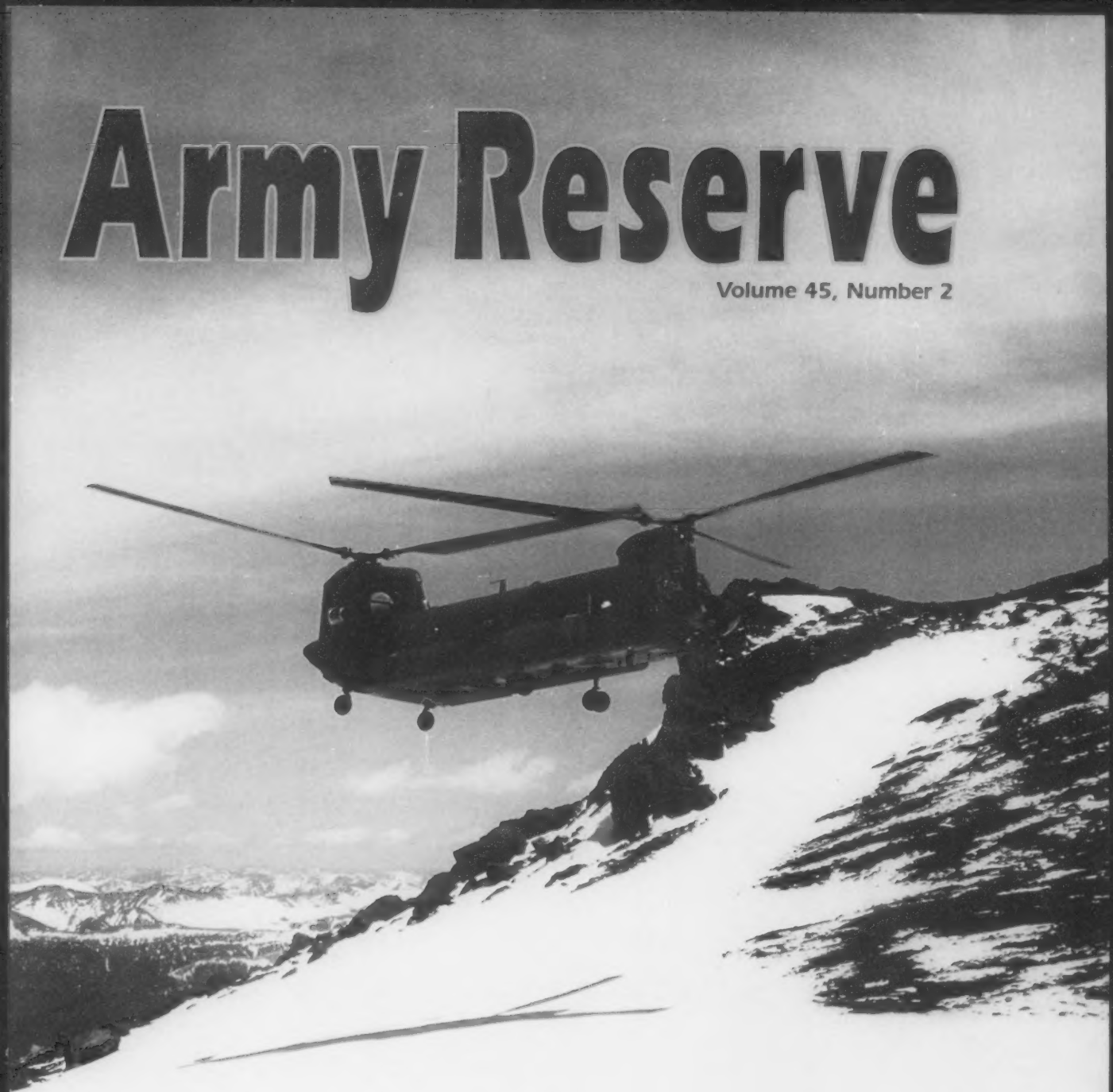
Army Reserve

Volume 45, Number 2



High Mountain Rescue Training

Army Reserve

Volume 45, Number 2
Since 1954. America's largest circulating military magazine

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"The Army Reserve — Boldly marching into the 21st Century"

Maj. Gen. Thomas J. Plewes

The U.S. Army Reserve enters the first century of the new Millennium as a flexible, indispensable and strategically responsive force, an essential component of the 21st Century Army.

That Army will be more dominant and more strategically responsive, an agile, versatile and lethal force that is persuasive in peace and invincible in war.

Agility and versatility are core competencies of the Army Reserve, as much as combat support and combat service support. Our record proves it. This past year alone, the Army Reserve has shown itself to be essential to the Army along the full spectrum of operations, from war to peacekeeping, from humanitarian assistance to training of the entire force.

Army Reserve soldiers supported the NATO operation against Yugoslavia and have supported — and continue to support — peacekeeping operations in Bosnia, Kosovo and East Timor. Army Reservists took care of refugees at Fort Dix and rebuilt schools and gave basic medical care to disaster victims in Central America. Around the country and around the world, citizen-soldiers not only trained with our fellow soldiers, other service members and allies, but they in many cases conducted the actual training.

Today's Army Reserve, an organization which did not even exist at the beginning of the 20th Century, is now a vital federal community-based force, primarily composed of part-time soldiers, that is engaged full-time.

That is not how it was for most of the century. The Army Reserve and Army Reservists used to be for emergency use only. We were called up when the crisis hit and we did a great job, as evidenced during the World Wars, the Great Depression, Korea and the Persian Gulf War.

Since the end of the Cold War, however, the Army has no longer been able to afford holding the Army Reserve in reserve just for major emergencies. The Army has too much to do and too few active soldiers to do everything that must be done.

Perhaps more importantly, though, is that the Army Reserve has too much to offer not to be used. Our citizen-soldiers, the Army's link to the American people, who bring their civilian-acquired skills and expertise with them to the warfight, provide the Army with unparalleled support capabilities. Without the Army Reserve, the Army cannot do its missions.

The indispensability of the Army Reserve will not change in the 21st Century but the Army Reserve will change nonetheless. We will adopt new practices and techniques, we will develop or acquire new technology and we will take on new or revise existing missions. We will increase our support of joint and combined operations. We will expand our leveraging of civilian-acquired skills. We will expand the already considerable role we play in the training of the Army. As essential as the Army Reserve is today, we will become even more essential.

Change will come rapidly and it will take hard work but I am absolutely confident that the men and women of the Army Reserve are more than capable of doing it. **The soldiers of the Army Reserve, in the 21st Century as they were in the 20th, will always be our greatest strength.**

Photo by Lt. Col. Randy Pullen

Maj. Gen. Thomas J. Plewes (left) and Command Sgt. Maj. Alex R. Lackey (right) pose with representatives of the 12 Army Reserve units recognized at the 14th annual Chief of Staff, Army, Supply Excellence Awards.

From the Command Sergeant Major

"Leaders set the example"

Command Sgt. Maj. Alex R. Lackey

Editor's Note- Army Reserve magazine interviewed Command Sergeant Major, Alex R. Lackey after a few weeks in his new position as the 8th Command Sergeant Major of the Army Reserve. Subjects included training, family support, recruiting, retention and his priorities for the Army Reserve.

AR- Congratulations and welcome to the Pentagon. What are your vision, goals and priorities for the Army Reserve as the 8th Command Sergeant Major of the Army Reserve?

CSM Lackey- We as leaders set the example, we must train to standard in all areas and get back to the basics. The basics must be adhered to, if not little things become big issues. Leaders must ensure every soldier in the Army Reserve meets the minimum standard. By doing this, soldiers will strive for excellence and be the best. Also, physical fitness is a key part of leadership, we must meet the standard.

AR- Army Reserve retention was a key in meeting end strength for FY 99. How can we improve upon this accomplishment?

CSM Lackey- Whether or not junior soldiers stay in the Army Reserve is directly related to their experience with their first line leader. First line leaders are key to the success of the Army Reserve. A recent survey of junior soldiers showed that they stay in because of good first line leadership. It is a matter of taking care of soldiers and their families. In addition, as leaders we have to increase our awareness of our soldiers, what makes them tick?

AR- How are we doing in training?

CSM Lackey- We must ensure all eligible soldiers attend MOS qualification schools and attend NCOES. One area we are going to improve upon is attendance at PLDC. In our survey of junior enlisted soldiers and sergeants, only 60 percent of the E-5s responding had taken PLDC. I expect every E-5 to attend PLDC. We are going to ensure soldiers attend PLDC.

As far as MOS qualification, soldiers must attend school if not qualified. A soldier that is not qualified is non-deployable and unable to participate in the unit's Annual Training.

AR- You mentioned taking care of the soldiers earlier and made a reference to the families. How are we doing in Family Support?

CSM Lackey- Family support is doing well and was rated high in the survey mentioned earlier. We are giving family members and the soldier a sense of belonging, and need to continue to do that. There is room for improvement however. Let me give an example.

When soldiers get married, we need to immediately brief them on the benefits they are now entitled to and welcome them into the Army Reserve family. There is more to do than ensuring that family member obtains an ID card. A positive family experience helps retain that junior soldier who is thinking about re-enlisting. We have to continue to involve families and also employers, when a soldier leaves for deployment; we cannot forget the other 2/3rds, family and employer.

AR- Recruiting has and will continue to be a challenge, what are your thoughts?

CSM Lackey- Recruiting is one of my key interests. I will be visiting with AGR and civilian inservice recruiters when I am out visiting units. The Army Reserve is going to initiate the Sergeant Major of the Army Referral program, (SMART). The program is a referral card used by soldiers to place applicants into the Army Reserve. There are incentives and awards for the number of referrals that result into an enlistment. This program is already in place and is successful. If everyone put in a soldier, we would not have a problem with recruiting. I will be challenging the MACOMS to set goals and asking every soldier to participate in "Operation SMART." Referrals have proven to be one of the best means of gaining quality soldiers.

AR- Final comment?

CSM Lackey-The Army Reserve will continue to be called upon, so we must train to standards and we must continue to involve employers and family members. I am proud to represent the soldiers of the Army Reserve and look forward to visiting the great soldiers that comprise the Army Reserve.

Happy Holidays

Trisha and I wish all of our soldiers and their families a joyful holiday season.

We especially remember our Army Reserve soldiers deployed and the families back at home who anxiously await their return.

Remember to be mindful of safety during this holiday season. I expect to see all of you in the next millennium.

Photo by Lt. Col. Randy Pullen

This painting on display in the Pentagon, depicts the 100th/442nd RCT battling German armor to rescue the Lost Battalion of the 36th Infantry Division at La Houssiere, France, October 26-30, 1944.

The All Americans of the 100th/442nd RCT

By Lt. Col. Randy Pullen

The famed 82nd Airborne Division is well known as the All American Division, a nickname derived from its "AA" shoulder patch but there is another famous Army unit which could put in a strong claim to the title if it chose to do so.

The reason for the claim goes beyond the unit's exploits on the battlefield, exploits as heroic as any performed by American soldiers at Bunker Hill, Gettysburg or San Juan Hill. It goes to the attitude of the unit's soldiers, the sons of immigrants, many from a region known for its melting pot tradition, who exhibited those All-American traits of stubbornness, determination to succeed and refusal to accept injustice.

What makes this unit's tale even more remarkable is that the stubbornness and determination displayed were needed to overcome the great injustices directed specifically against the unit's soldiers and their families. By overcoming these injustices and proving their critics completely wrong, this unit made itself one of the greatest in the history of the United States Army.

The unit was the 442nd Regimental Combat Team of World War II, made up of Americans of Japanese Ancestry. In June 1944, the 100th Infantry Battalion, also composed of Japanese-Americans, was attached to the 442nd. Because most of the then-stateside 442nd's 1st Battalion had earlier gone to the 100th as replacements (The 100th had been in action in Italy since September 1943 and were veterans of Cassino and Anzio.), the 100th became the first battalion of the 442nd but retained its numerical designation as a tribute to its nine months of distinguished combat service. The unit was often referred to as the 100th/442nd Regimental Combat Team (RCT).

Both units were created due to wartime prejudice and racism, exacerbated by the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. Japanese-American members of the Hawaii National Guard were stripped from their units after the attack, moved from Hawaii and reorganized into the 100th Infantry Battalion.

While the soldiers of the 100th were experiencing their discrimination, other Americans of Japanese Ancestry were being denied their rights even more brutally. On the West Coast of the United States, they were uprooted from their homes and forced into relocation camps at remote sites. In 1943, the Army sent out a call for Japanese-Americans to form a new unit, the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. Thousands of men volunteered from Hawaii and from the relocation camps. Like the former National Guardsmen of the 100th, they were united in their determination to prove how wrong it had been to doubt their loyalty to America.

They did exactly that. By the time, the 100th and 442nd (The 442nd RCT was comprised of the 442nd Infantry Regiment, the 522nd Field Artillery Battalion and the 232nd Combat Engineer Company.) joined together, the 100th had earned the nickname "the Purple Heart Battalion" from the heavy casualties it had suffered.

After the veterans and newcomers jelled, the 100th/442nd built a reputation as one of the Army's toughest outfits, always sent to where fighting was hottest. From Italy, the 100th/442nd went to France. The fighting in the thick pine forests of the Vosges Mountains was especially brutal. Following the capture of the key towns of Bruyeres and Biffontaine, the 100th/442nd took on perhaps its most famous mission, the rescue of the Lost Battalion of the 36th Infantry Division.

The battalion, the 1st Battalion, 141st Infantry Regiment (a former Texas National Guard unit), had been cut off since October 24,1944. The other two battalions of the 141st were unable to break through. The 100th /442nd, was ordered to rescue the Lost Battalion in a real-life "Saving Private Ryan" mission (More men were lost in the 100th/442nd in the rescue operation than there were to save in the 1st of the 141st.).

The 2nd Battalion jumped off at 0300 on the 26th. Before dawn on the 27th, the 100th and 3rd Battalions were called in, too. Fire support came from the 522nd FA Battalion. Enemy resist-

ance was fierce; captured German prisoners revealed that orders from Hitler were to prevent any relief of the trapped battalion. The soldiers of the 100th/442nd fought in dense woods and heavy fog in freezing temperatures. Late in the afternoon of October 30, scouts from the Lost Battalion spotted soldiers in olive-drab uniforms and with Japanese faces approaching and knew the 442nd had broken through. In five days and nights of continuous combat, the 100th/442nd RCT had suffered more than 800 casualties. In the 3rd Battalion, Company K had 17 riflemen left and Company I had eight riflemen left. Sergeants commanded both companies; all the officers had been killed or wounded.

In March 1945, the 100th/442nd returned to Italy and was attached to the 92nd Infantry Division.

After helping to crack the German Gothic Line, the 100th/442nd saw the end of the war in Italy on May 2, 1945, followed by the complete German surrender in Europe on May 8.

For its service in eight major campaigns in Italy and France, the 100th Battalion and 442nd Regimental Combat Team earned seven Presidential Unit Citations. Among the decorations received by the 100th/442nd soldiers were one Medal of Honor, 52 Distinguished Service Crosses, 560 Silver Stars, 28 Oak Leaf Clusters to the Silver Star, 4,000 Bronze Stars and 1,200 Oak Leaf Clusters to the Bronze Star and, perhaps most telling of the sacrifices made by these gallant soldiers, 9,486 Purple Hearts.

Following post-war occupation duty in Italy, the soldiers of the 100th/442nd returned home. On July 15, 1946, they paraded down Constitution Avenue in Washington, DC, to the Ellipse. There the President of the United States (and Army Reserve Colonel), Harry S Truman, came forward and pinned the 100th/442nd's seventh Presidential Unit Citation to the unit's colors.

The soldiers of the 100th/442nd had once been seen as disloyal and some had even been put behind barbed wire because of their ancestry. Now they had returned to the United States as true American heroes.

In his remarks at the award presentation, Truman said, "You fought for the free nations of the world along with the rest of us. I congratulate you on that, and I can't tell you how very much I appreciate the privilege of being able to show you just how much the United States of America thinks of what you have done."

U.S. Army photo

Lt. Gen. Mark Clark, Commanding General of Fifth U.S. Army, attaches a unit citation to a 100th Infantry Battalion guidon.

Inactivated in Honolulu in 1946, the 100th/442nd was reactivated in Hawaii in 1947 as an Organized Reserve unit. In 1968, it was one of the Army Reserve units mobilized during the Vietnam War to refill the Strategic Reserve.

Today, the 100th Battalion, 442nd Infantry, is the only remaining Infantry unit in the Army Reserve force structure. Its headquarters is located at Fort Shafter, Hawaii, and its units are located in Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam and Saipan. Under the command and control of the 9th Regional Support Command, the 100th/442nd's wartime mission is to be one of the maneuver battalions of the 29th Separate Infantry Brigade, Hawaii Army National Guard.

It trains regularly with the 29th Brigade and deployed with the 29th to Fort Polk, La., in June 1999. The determination to succeed shown by the 100th/442nd's World War II ancestors continues with their modern descendents, as was evidenced during the unit's record-setting training rotation at the Joint Readiness Training Center.

The 100th/442nd today is no longer made up entirely of Americans of Japanese Ancestry and some white officers. Its racial and ethnic make-up is rich and diverse, befitting the melting pot culture of Hawaii and the Pacific. Although today's soldiers still work hard to live up the heritage passed on to them from the original members of the unit, never again will they have to struggle to prove their loyalty because of their race or ancestry.

The All-American soldiers of the 100th/442nd resolved that question long ago at Cassino and Anzio and in the Vosges Mountains and at the Gothic Line.

(Pullen is with the Public Affairs and Liaison Directorate, OCAR)

2nd Lt. Daniel K. Inouye, 2nd Battalion, 442 RCT epitomized the caliber of the soldier in the unit. Wounded three times while leading his platoon up a hill in Italy, Inouye personally eliminated an enemy machine gun position and refused medical evacuation until he had deployed the platoon for possible counterattack. He lost his right arm from his wounds and received the Distinguished Service Cross for this valor. He is now the senior U.S. Senator from Hawaii. (photo on display at National Museum of American History)

Army Reserve gets its first woman 2-star general

By Lt. Col. Randy Pullen

WASHINGTON (November 29, 1999) — A milestone event took place for the U.S. Army Reserve today when Maj. Gen. Celia L. Adolphi became the first woman two-star general in its history.

Adolphi's new stars were pinned on her by her husband, Ron, a retired Army Reserve colonel, and by Lt. Gen. John M. McDuffie, Director, Logistics, J-4, Office of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Adolphi is currently assigned as the Deputy Mobilization Assistant to the Director, J-4/ Director of Operations, Logistics Readiness Center, the Joint Staff. In her civilian job, she is a senior Logistics Management Specialist in the Directorate of Transportation and Troop Support, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics, Headquarters, Department of the Army.

Commenting on the promotion, Maj. Gen. Thomas J. Plewes, Chief of the Army Reserve, who like Adolphi has a extensive logistics background, said that Adolphi did not get to this achievement just because the Army Reserve is a great place for women to succeed, which it is, but because of what she has done and because of her future potential.

"This promotion is in recognition of what she has brought to the Army Reserve throughout her career," Plewes said. "She got to this point today because she's done all of the tough things."

As an example, when the 55th Support Center went to Hungary for Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR, Plewes noted, she did not have to go. There were others who could have handled that mission. She volunteered to go, however, because she was the commander and she felt that was where the commander should be.

"On behalf of the Army Reserve," Plewes said to Adolphi, "I want to say how proud we are of you."

Adolphi remarked that ABC News is now doing a series of television segments on key events that have taken place in the 20th Century. This series is called "the Century Minute."

"For women in the Army Reserve," she said, "this is a Century Minute."

Adolphi thanked her many mentors, one of whom was her husband, who originally suggested she join the Army Reserve. She also thanked the leaders and staff of her civilian job at Army DCSLOG, who have been outstanding in allowing her to carry on two careers simultaneously. She had one final group to thank, the women who have served in the military this century, whose service to this country, as Gen. Creighton Abrams said, was "an affair of the heart."

"I would not be here without the sacrifice and courage of thousands and thousands of women patriots," Adolphi said. "Just 51 years ago, women gained the authorization to be a part of the Army and the Army Reserve in a capacity other than a wartime emergency measure."

Even before that, she said, back to the Spanish-American War and World War I, women Army nurses were serving this country. They were serving without being able to vote in its elections.

As recently as 25 years ago, there were only a few hundred women, mostly nurses, in the Army Reserve, Adolphi continued. Now there are 52,000 women in the Army Reserve.

"Today, women in the Army are equal partners," she said.

Adolphi was promoted to brigadier general in March, 1998. She was the first Army Reserve woman one-star logistician.

(The Army Reserve's first woman general was Dorothy B. Pocklington, who was promoted to brigadier general on June 30, 1989, becoming the Assistant to the Chief, Army Nurse Corps (Individual Mobilization Augmentee). Eight years later, in June, 1997, Brig. Gen. B. Sue Dueitt became the Army Reserve's first woman general not from the Army Nurse Corps.)

Photo by Lt. Col. Randy Pullen

Maj. Gen. Thomas J. Plewes, Chief, Army Reserve, warmly congratulates Maj. Gen. Celia L. Adolphi after she became the first female two-star in the history of the U.S. Army Reserve.

Adolphi has more than 21 years of military service. She received a direct appointment as a captain in 1978.

Her previous assignments have included being the Assistant Chief of Staff, Services, and Assistant Chief of Staff, Training, for the 310th Theater Army Area Command at Fort Belvoir,Va., Commander of the 55th Support Center at Fort Belvoir, and Deputy Commanding General for Mobilization and Training (Individual Mobilization Augmentee) for the U.S. Army Quartermaster Center and School at Fort Lee, Va.

From July 1996 to February 1997, she was in Kaposvar, Hungary, commanding the 55th Support Center during Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR.

Her military education includes the Quartermaster Officers Advanced Course, the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College and the U.S. Army War College. She also has a Bachelor's degree in Dietetics from Marian College and a Master's degree in Education from Butler University.

(Pullen is with the Public Affairs and Liaison Directorate, OCAR)

Finance News

Issuance of 1999 W-2 forms to USAR soldiers

The Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) in Indianapolis has announced the schedule for issuance of IRS Form W-2s to USAR soldiers. The W-2 forms for USAR soldiers (except Active/Guard Reserve [AGR]) will be individually mailed to their home addresses via the US Postal Service on December 31, 1999. In addition to the W-2s mailed to their home address, duplicate W-2s for deployed USAR soldiers (except AGRs) will be bulk mailed to each country on December 31, 1999.

W-2s for AGRs will be bulk mailed to their servicing finance office on January 12, 2000. The servicing finance office will then distribute the W-2s to the AGR soldiers. Duplicate W-2s for deployed AGR soldiers will be bulk mailed to each country on January 14, 2000.

AGR soldiers receive their W-2s later than other USAR soldiers because AGRs are paid on the Active Component pay system, not the RC pay system—different systems, different processing cycles.

It takes DFAS-Indianapolis time to update their 5-year tax history database, so you won't be able to request a W-2 reissue or corrected W-2 until after January 24, 2000. Drilling reservists, needing reissued or corrected W-2s, should go through their unit chain of command. Individual Ready Reserve (IRR) or Individual Mobilization Augmentees (IMAs) should call 800-318-5298 ext. 0482 at the Army Reserve Personnel Command (ARPERSCOM). AGR soldiers needing W-2 help should direct their questions to their servicing finance office.

If you completed a military "Do It Yourself" (DITY) household goods move during 1999, you will receive a separate DITY W-2 (some of the money you received during your DITY move is taxable). You will also receive

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News Update

City Pair contract rates may save you money

WASHINGTON -Reserve forces members, who travel by air to and from their weekend drills, can now buy tickets at the General Services Administration (GSA) City Pair contract rates. This gives reservists greater flexibility and potential cost savings when traveling to perform military duties.

Reservists traveling to and from their weekend drills are required to pay for their own transportation. The GSA City Pair travel contract with the airlines previously excluded members of the Reserve and National Guard from using the government fares even though they were in an official duty status.

Rep. Stephen Buyer, who serves on the House Armed Services Committee, is the chairman of the Subcommittee on Military Personnel and also a lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Army Reserve. Through his sponsorship, Congress passed Public Law 105-261 directing the General Services Administration (GSA) to include members of the National Guard and Reserve in the GSA airfare contract.

Air Force Reserve Maj. Gen. John Miller also was a key proponent of the legislation, and executives from several airlines in the Civil Reserve Airlift Fleet program heartily supported its passage.

Army Reservists support mission in Kosovo

More than 400 U.S. Army Reservists from around the country are supporting Operation Joint Guardian, the NATO peacekeeping mission in Kosovo. These soldiers include Military police, finance, civil affairs, and Individual Mobilization Augmentees.

The 79th Military Police Company, Rochester, Minn., the 88th Military Police Company, Fort Eustis, Va., and the 316th Military Police Company, Bell, Calif., have all deployed. They are stationed at various locations throughout Germany.

Two detachments from the 374th Finance Battalion, one from Wilmington, Del. and the other from Fort Belvoir, Va., have also deployed. All are scheduled to be deployed for 270 days.

USAR looking for Physician's Assistant candidates

FY 2001 will mark the third year of the USAR Physician's Assistant (PA) Procurement Program. During FY99, we selected 6 USAR soldiers to attend the PA training at Ft Sam Houston, TX. Those soldiers began training in Apr 99. Three students will commence training in Dec 99, 4 students in Apr 00 and 3 students in Aug 00.

The Physician's Assistant Procurement Program was developed to meet a critical need for PAs in reserve units. Training consists of one year didactic (classroom training) phase at Ft. Sam Houston and a one year clinical phase at a medical treatment facility training site.

The actual cutoff of the application procedure is 31 May of each fiscal year. The selection board usually meets the third week of Aug each FY. The Health Services Division of USAREC holds the USAR selection board the same time as they hold the AC selection board.

Previous selections included soldiers from a variety of MOS's, ranks and unit assignments.

For more information about the program and to download an application visit www.army.mil/usar/panew99.htm.

Request via the mail from:
Commander, AR-PERSCOM
ATTN: ARPC-HSE (SFC Gopie)
1 Reserve Way
St Louis. MO 63132-5200

Health care benefits and entitlements study recommends sweeping changes

Secretary of Defense William S. Cohen has sent a report to Congress that recommends sweeping changes in

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the statutes and policies covering health care benefits and entitlements for members of the Army Reserve and National Guard.

The study contains 14 recommendations to ensure that medical treatment, entitlements and force health protection measures for Reserve component personnel are sufficient at a time in history when reservists are increasingly being called upon, and when they are increasingly going in harm's way. Some of these recommendations have already been adopted by the Congress and included in the FY 2000 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA).

"The findings of this report are compelling and important because the changed nature of today's Total Force requires a new approach to providing medical care to our reservists," Cohen said. "At the core of this new approach is the notion that performance of duty, not length of duty, establishes risk and exposure to harm. In other words, we will treat injury or illness, sustained in the line of duty, regardless of the duty status in which the individual is serving."

Past legislation and policies governing Reserve medical care and force health protection were based on length of duty and the historic use of the Reserve components being called up in the event of a major war or national emergency.

The study, formally titled, "Means of Improving the Provision of Uniform and Consistent Medical and Dental Care to Members of the Reserve Component," is part of a three-year effort to reassess Reserve component health care issues. Known as the 746 Study after the numbered section in the 1997 NDAA, it was undertaken by the offices of the assistant secretaries of Defense for Reserve Affairs and Health Affairs.

In November 1997, Cohen announced the first-ever Reserve health care summit to address the full spectrum of health care issues, entitlements and legislation affecting Reserve readiness. The objective of the summit was to improve readiness of reservists and ensure that those who become ill or injured as a result of military service receive appropriate health care and medical benefits. The summit, conducted in conjunction with the 746 Study and also co-chaired by the assistant secretaries of Defense for Reserve Affairs and Health Affairs, served as a primary source of information and helped validate the Study's findings and recommendations.

DoD Seeks Gulf War Field Sanitation Teams' Observations

WASHINGTON (GulfLINK) – The Department of Defense Office of the Special Assistant for Gulf War Illnesses is asking U.S. Army Gulf War veterans who served as field sanitation team members during the war to provide eyewitness accounting of potential environmental exposures. Investigators are seeking information from Army troops who served in Bahrain and Saudi Arabia during Operations Desert Shield and Storm and in Iraq and Kuwait during Operation Desert Storm in a search for potential linkages between environmental exposures and the illnesses that some veterans are experiencing.

"We really don't know a lot about what the Army field sanitation teams did and what they saw during the war. Their observations could have an impact on a variety of investigations," says a member of the environmental occupational exposure division.

Aside from hostile fire, the principal threats to force readiness are naturally occurring diseases and illnesses caused by environmental exposures. For example, hot and cold weather injuries, insects, pesticides, unpurified water, vehicle exhausts and other potentially hazardous elements prevalent in a deployment area can be real threats to troops. The responsibility to minimize those threats rests with the unit commander.

A field sanitation team's key responsibility is to advise and assist the unit commander in reducing unit disease and non-battle injury. Ultimately, the success or failure of a military operation can rest upon effective preventive medicine measures within operational units.

"The field sanitation team becomes the eyes and ears of the commander," says Col. Frank O'Donnell, M.D., director of medical outreach and issues for the special assistant's office.

"The team's attentiveness to the water and food supply, waste disposal and insect control is important to the mission because it impacts the effectiveness of the unit," he says.

Investigators in the Gulf War illnesses environmental division have had difficulty in obtaining feedback from Gulf War field sanitation personnel because this function is normally an additional duty and cannot be identified by occupational specialty codes. They request individuals call the special assistant's office toll-free number at (800) 497-6261 to report their observations.

More than 94,000 Army Reservists served on active duty during DS/DS, providing essential Combat Support and Combat Service Support.

"USAR soldiers contributed significantly to Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. There are undoubtedly Reservists who were in the Gulf who have vital information that can contribute to this research," said Maj. Don Donahue, Medical Operations Officer, OCAR.

Lower cost dental insurance for Reservists

ATLANTA — A new lower monthly premium has been announced for the Defense Department's TRICARE Selected Reserve Dental Program. The new premium of $4.12 went into effect on October 1, 1998.

TSRDP is a basic dental care insurance program for members of the Selected Reserves. The plan offers diagnostic, preventive, oral surgery and emergency dental services. Coverage is limited to reservists only. Family members are not eligible for coverage.

Reservists who sign up for this program receive free diagnostic, preventive and emergency dental services such as exams, cleanings, x-rays, etc. Additional services such as fillings are available at greatly discounted rates. Soldiers at the rank of specialist and below pay only 10% of the cost of these services, while sergeants and above pay only 20%.

DoD started this "dental readiness" program because unexpectedly large numbers of Reservists called up for Desert Storm had dental problems that had to be fixed before they could be deployed. This program is intended to make it easier and cheaper for personnel to maintain their "dental readiness."

For additional information about the program contact your reserve unit or you can call Humana Military Healthcare Services at 800-211-3614 or check out Humana's website at www.humana-military.com.

Shorter tours may ease RC shortages

By Harry Noyes

Reserve Component physicians, dentists and nurse anesthetists called up for peacekeeping deployments will soon have less cause for anxiety about the economic consequences of serving their country.

Instead of 270-day tours, these Reservists will only be required to serve 90 days at a time – recognition by the Army that many of them can lose their livelihoods if they leave their businesses too long.

Federal law forbids employers to fire Reservists for absences due to official orders, but no law can keep a patient from changing caregivers. In the Gulf War, self-employed Reserve medical people were chagrined to see their clients migrate to other providers while they helped liberate Kuwait.

Practitioners left the Reserve in droves. Later deployments had similar results. From late 1995 to early 1998, the Army Reserve lost 34.2 percent of physicians assigned to units sent to the Balkans. Two physicians left for every new one recruited.

Also dentist and nurse-anesthetist strength was eroding. The Army could suffer a shortfall of 3,100 in these specialties by 2005, studies show.

Stopping the evaporation of Reserve medical capability was more than a matter of ensuring availability for Balkans missions. With the Reserve Components holding over 60 percent of Army medical assets, the Army's ability to care for casualties in a major war was being severely jeopardized.

Surveys show 81 percent of physicians could serve up to 90 days without serious harm to their practices, but beyond 90 days economic disaster is a real threat. Similar worries affect dentists and nurse anesthetists.

Army Reserve physicians, dentists and nurse anesthetists called up for deployment may see 90-day tours in their future.

To stop the hemorrhage, a three-year test of a 90-day deployment limit was authorized by Assistant Secretary of the Army for Manpower and Reserve Affairs Patrick T. Henry in an Oct. 29 memo to Army Surgeon General Lt. Gen Ronald R. Blanck.

People already in the Balkans will not come home early under this policy, unless volunteers are available to replace them on a case-by-case basis.

September 2000

The first unit deployment under the 90-day plan will be next September, but details have not been set.

Periodic reports will be made to Henry. In September 2002, a final report will indicate how the concept affected recruiting and retention and whether it should be continued or even expanded.

The test approach reflects officials' recognition that the new policy involves uncertainties. No one knows what impact the program might have on the morale of soldiers who are not included in this initiative.

Logic favors helping understaffed specialties...but emotion may not. Officials say experience with professionals sent home early for training shows no morale damage; but a broad policy may not be seen in the same light.

Also, the policy requires more Reservists to deploy, even as it strives to reduce the burden on Reservists.

"Certainly more Reservists will be touched," concedes COL Bruce W. Burney, Medical Command deputy director of operations. "And, though we'll do all we can to avoid it, some may be touched again."

That means a Reservist might be called for more than one 90-day tour (an exception to a rule against mobilizing anyone more than once under the same Presidential Selected Reserve Callup). However, no one will have to serve more than 270 days total.

Before that happens, however, the Army will tap every other possible source – which should expand once the new program's hoped-for recruiting and retention benefits kick in.

"In any case, the 90-day rotation (even if repeated) should offer a better alternative for the Reservist than being away from his practice for 270 consecutive days," Burney notes.

One source of 90-day replacements is the same units that returning Reservists came from. That's possible in cases where Reserve units are not deployed in toto, i.e., where slices are sent to supplement Active Army units. That leaves undeployed slices as a source of replacements.

Units with lower deployment priorities are another source. A number of individuals from such units have offered to take 90-day tours.

(Noyes is with the Public Affairs/Marketing Office,USA MEDCOM)

"Forgotten Widows" Law Change Affects Some Reserve Surviving Spouses

WASHINGTON-Surviving spouses of Reservists who were members before October 1, 1978 and would have been eligible for retired pay at age 60, if they hadn't died before reaching that age, have been added to those eligible for Annuities for Certain Military Surviving Spouses (ACMSS).

Section 644 of the FY 98 DoD Authorization Act created a benefit for so-called "forgotten widows."

"Forgotten widows" was the category of surviving spouses who were previously ineligible for a survivor annuity because their retirement-qualified spouses died before having the opportunity to enroll them in either the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP), created in 1972, or the Reserve Component Survivor Benefit Plan (RC-SBP), created in 1978. Creating the ACMSS benefit remedied that situation for the most part. However, the military services went back to Congress to remedy one inequity.

Under the FY 98 DoD Authorization Act, the reserve member's death had to have occurred between Sepember 21, 1972 and October 1, 1978, thereby disqualifying surviving spouses of qualified reserve members who died before 1972.

Under the FY 2000 DoD Authorization Act, the criteria for ACMSS qualification now is that the deceased reserve member:

-must have completed at least 20 qualifying years of service toward retirement, and

-must have been married to the applicant on date of death, and

-must have died before October 1, 1978.

Criteria for regular retirees' surviving spouses remains "must have died before March 21, 1974."

The Army has notified applicants disapproved under previous law of this change. They must reapply and provide supporting documents. Anyone who meets this new criteria is encouraged to apply. If the applicant is approved under this law, monthly annuities ($174.76 beginning December 1, 1999) are retroactive to October 1, 1999.

Retirement Services Officers (RSOs) can be contacted for applications and assistance. The application indicates what documents must be provided and where to send them.

Defense Authorization for FY 2000 Impacts Army Reserve Military Technicians

By Maj. Jonathan A. Dahms

WASHINGTON (November 16, 1999) – The National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2000, signed by the President as approved by Congress, contains mandatory separation provisions that will impact the Army Reserve's Military Technician Program.

The new law requires separation or retirement of non-dual status military technicians eligible for an unreduced retirement annuity, and some military technicians hired after Feb. 10, 1996 who are not eligible for an annuity. It also creates a new early retirement criterion for any technician hired after Feb. 10, 1996, who becomes a non-dual status technician.

In short, Congress and the President have directed the military services to make maximum use of dual-status military technicians and to reduce the numbers of non-dual status technicians.

"We must comply with the law," said Maj. Gen. Thomas J. Plewes, the Chief, Army Reserve and Commander, U.S. Army Reserve Command in Atlanta. "But rest assured, we will do all we can to help our Military Technicians adjust to this change and assist them during their transition."

To assist with compliance and closely monitor progress, the Army Reserve will centrally manage the transition and separation process through the USARC's Military Technician Division. They have published an implementation plan.

The law presents a significant challenge to the Army Reserve in meeting FY 2000's military technician end strength and will more than double the MT recruiting mission for the year.

The Army Reserve will begin the replacement process immediately to maintain its MT strength, which is vital to unit readiness. Timely recruiting actions and selections will be made on all vacancies created by this process. The goal is to complete the selection process within 30 days.

"We need to help our Mil Techs with this process," Plewes said. "If we can help some of them regain dual status, let's do it."

Military Technicians have long been a key to Army Reserve readiness by providing full-time administrative, training, maintenance and logistic support to units at all levels nationwide. They provide a key link between the full-time force and our drilling reservists and are the continuity that allows the Army Reserve to be more ready and relevant than at any time in its history.

"We owe a great deal of the current strength and success of the Army Reserve to our Mil Techs," Plewes said. "I encourage all my commanders to properly recognize those who choose retirement during this transition period with a proper award and retirement ceremony."

Further details about Army Reserve Military Technician management are available from the U.S. Army Reserve Command's Military Technician Division at (404) 464-9016.

(Dahms is with the Public Affairs and Liaison Directorate, OCAR)

U.S. ARMY RESERVE CENTER DEDICATED IN GERMANY

Photo by Maj. Burt Masters

Lt. Gen. Larry R. Jordan (left) joins Mr. Earl "Bud" Rudder, Jr. in unveiling a plaque of Maj. Gen. James Earl Rudder, as part of the dedication of the Kaiserslautern, Germany U.S. Army Reserve Center in his honor.

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany - The Kaiserslautern U.S. Army Reserve Center was formally dedicated October 17 in honor of a great Army Reserve hero of World War II, and famed Texan, Maj. Gen. James Earl Rudder. Participating in the dedication was Rudder's son, James Earl "Bud" Rudder, Jr.

The U.S. Army Europe's Deputy Commanding General, Lt. Gen. Larry R. Jordan, was the dedication speaker. Conducting the event was Brig. Gen. Paul D. Patrick, commander of the European-based 7th U.S. Army Reserve Command. The center, on the U.S. Army's Daenner Kaserne, is home to five of the command's 23 units, and their Kaiserslautern Regional Support Detachment, which supports the center's units.

On D-Day, June 6, 1944, Rudder led "Rudder's Rangers" in scaling the 100-foot cliffs at Pointe du Hoc under heavy fire to seize enemy artillery emplacements and secure the heights overlooking the Normandy invasion beaches. Although twice wounded, he continued to lead his soldiers in halting several counterattacks to retake the position. This action was critical to the overall success of the allied landings. For his heroism, he was awarded the Army's Distinguished Service Cross. Rudder went on to serve with distinction - leading the 109th Inf. Regiment in liberating the last occupied city in France (Colmar) and playing a key role in halting the German counteroffensive in the Battle of the Bulge.

After the war, Rudder returned to his home state of Texas and rose to the rank of major general in the U.S. Army Reserve. He also served as the commissioner of the state's Land Office, and oversaw the growth and expansion of the Texas A&M University System, as its president. In Texas, several state buildings, public schools, and section of the highway system are named in his honor. Recently, the Association of the U.S. Army created a "Maj. Gen. James Earl Rudder Medal" to recognize the special achievements of members of the Army Reserve in promoting a seamless force. The first recipient of the award, Maj. Gen. John T. Crowe, participated in the ceremony, representing AUSA.

Also participating in the dedication as speakers were World War II Medal of Honor recipient, Mr. John D. Hawk, from the former 90th Inf. Div. (Organized Reserve), and Mrs. Doris Barnett, member of the German Federal Parliament from Ludwigshafen. Representatives from the State of Texas, Texas National Guard, and Texas A&M University - Col. Jackie Swope - and the Reserve Officers Association of the U.S. - Lt. Col. (Ret.) W. Lewis Kirkpatrick also participated. Present at the ceremony was the Chief, U.S. Army Reserve, Maj. Gen. Thomas J. Plewes, and recently appointed command sergeant major of the Army Reserve, Command Sgt. Maj. Alex R. Lackey, among other dignitaries.

The Rudder Army Reserve Center represents the model for reserve unit consolidation in Europe by the 7th ARCOM, with the objective of co-locating units in key locations throughout Germany and in Italy. The initiative is designed to consolidate the units for improved efficiencies in operations near their supported parent active Army organizations of U.S. Army, Europe and in end-state communities consistent with USAREUR's long range stationing plans.

The Maj. Gen. Rudder James Earl Rudder U.S. Army Reserve Center is the second such center to be dedicated outside of U.S. territory. The first was the 7th ARCOM's headquarters at Tompkins Barracks, Schwetzingen. It was dedicated in April 1996 in honor of the command's first general officer, Brig. Gen. Richard J. Dirgins, who died and is buried in Germany.

The European-based 7th ARCOM, headquartered in Tompkins Barracks, Schwetzingen, Germany consists of 900 soldiers in 23 troop program units (drilling reservists) throughout Germany and Vicenza, Italy. The command's units provide direct support to USAREUR and its major subordinate commands, in conducting deployments, contingency operations, and major training events.

Photo by Maj. Burt Masters

Soldiers from the 7th Army Reserve Command's Kaiserslautern units stand in formation during the dedication of the Maj. Gen. James Earl Rudder Army Reserve Center.

TRICARE Prime Remote enrollment opens

WASHINGTON-Active duty servicemembers, including AGRs who live in the United States but far from military hospitals and clinics could immediately enroll in a new program, known as TRICARE Prime Remote.

TRICARE Prime Remote facilitates access to primary medical care in the local areas where servicemembers live and work. Active duty personnel who live and work more than 50 miles from a military hospital or clinic must enroll in TRICARE Prime Remote. In areas where there are TRICARE network providers, servicemembers can select a primary care provider from the network as their Primary Care Manager (PCM). If there are no network providers, servicemembers may select any local, TRICARE-certified provider. Servicemembers will no longer need to call the nearest military hospital or clinic in order to schedule an appointment for primary care services.

"Our approach in designing the Prime Remote benefit is to focus on the needs of the servicemembers and their commanders," says Dr. Sue Bailey, assistant secretary of defense for Health Affairs. "We understand that duty in a remote area brings its own hardships. So when our servicemembers are sick, we want them to see their doctors without the hassle of long-distance phone calls or requirements to travel unreasonable distances."

"When specialty care is needed, either the primary care doctor or service member must call and get an authorization," continued Bailey. "Additionally, there will be instances when we will need to determine if the medical condition will impact a member's fitness for duty." Authorization for specialty care is obtained from the regional contractor.

"I want to stress, however, that in the event of an emergency, servicemembers should seek medical care immediately," Bailey emphasized. In these cases, preauthorization is not required, but authorization must be obtained within 24 hours following the emergency.

The most important action that servicemembers must take is to enroll in the program. Units will be receiving enrollment packets that include an enrollment form for each assigned member. In the event a unit or service member does not receive an enrollment packet, the service member or commander should call the regional contractor to get enrollment forms and other information on TRICARE Prime Remote.

If servicemembers live in remote areas and have not yet enrolled, they still have their medical benefits. When they need non-emergency medical care, they should call the regional contractor at the number below to get an authorization. The regional contractor will also ensure the service member receives an enrollment form and other information on TRICARE Prime Remote.

Under TRICARE Prime Remote, pharmacy and mental health services are covered benefits. Pre-authorization for mental health care is required and may be obtained by calling the toll-free contractor number. Services such as toll-free health care information lines, access to preferred provider networks, utilization of regional Health Care Finders are all services available to military members in remote areas. The same TRICARE contractors that handle family member claims will now handle medical claims processing services for all active duty servicemembers.

TRICARE Prime Remote includes dental care benefits. Servicemembers in remote areas may obtain care from any licensed dentist (or VA facility where dental care is available to servicemembers). Specialty dental care, like medical care, must be approved before treatment. However, unlike medical care, the Military Medical Support Office (MMSO), Great Lakes Naval Station, Ill., will approve dental specialty care. The MMSO will also process and pay all military claims for dental care.

DoD established the MMSO, a joint service office, as part of the TRICARE Prime Remote initiative. The Navy serves as executive agent with medical representatives from the Army, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard on the staff. The MMSO is organized into four major divisions—customer service, patient administration, resource management, and clinical management—under the direction of a senior military commanding officer.

The MMSO, like the regional contractors, provides 24-hour, 7-day a week service to military members who have questions about obtaining civilian health care or who experience an emergency hospitalization. Other services provided by the MMSO include: fitness for duty review on specialty referrals, point of contact in the appeals/grievance process, tracking of inpatient emergency admissions and patient movement between facilities.

The MMSO will help guide callers to the appropriate regional contractor. The MMSO can be reached at 1-888-MHS-MMSO (1-888-647-6676) or at their website, http://navymedicine.med.navy.mil/mmso/.

At this time, family members are not eligible for TRICARE Prime Remote. However, there are some programs for family members in remote areas in Regions 1 (Northeast), 2 (Mid-Atlantic), 5 (Heartland) and 11 (Northwest). The Department is studying various options for expanding family member choices in the coming year. In the meantime, family members continue to have TRICARE Standard, and they may use TRICARE Extra in areas where network providers are available.

Personnel serving in remote areas overseas will continue to be served by the TRICARE Overseas Lead Agents (Europe, Pacific, and Latin America) in the same manner as previously arranged for remote units.

Additional information about TRICARE Prime Remote can be obtained by calling the following toll-free numbers, or by visiting the TRICARE Prime Remote website: www.tricare.osd.mil/remote.

Northeast (Region 1) 1-888-999-5195
Mid-Atlantic(Region 2) 1-800-931-9501
Southeast (Region 3) 1-877-249-9179
Gulfsouth (Region 4) 1-877-249-9179
Heartland (Region 5) 1-800-941-4501
Southwest (Region 6) 1-800-406-2832
Central (Regions 7/8) 1-877-554-2224
Southern California (Region 9)
and Golden Gate (Region 10)
1-800-242-6788
Northwest (Region 11)
1-800-404-2042
Pacific (Region 12) Alaska and Hawaii
1-800-242-6788

USARC Soldiers 'Honor Walk' with Command Sgt. Maj. Bedford

Photo by Sgt. Maj. Mary Starmer

USARC soldiers join Command Sgt. Maj. Ronald Bedford as he nears Atlanta. Bedford's walk covered 1500 miles and raised funds for the National World War II Memorial. The memorial will be loacated in Washington, D. C. with ground breaking on Veterans Day 2000.

By Sgt. Maj. Mary Starmer

Editor's note-This article was written as Command Sgt. Maj. Bedford passed through Atlanta. His walk concluded on Veterans Day in Washington D.C. and is continuing to raise funds for the National World War II Memorial.

How do you show dedication? Well, for Command Sgt. Maj. Ronald Bedford, it's 71 days, 1500 miles, 144 cities, 2,792,000 steps! On day 20, 450 miles into the trip, go ahead and add a couple of pair of walking shoes! That's the day soldiers from the U.S. Army Reserve Command caught up with and walked 15 miles with the Command Sgt. Maj. on his journey to raise funds for the National World War II Memorial.

"I didn't even know there wasn't a memorial for those heroes," said Bedford, who serves as the senior enlisted soldier at Fort Rucker, Ala. "After seeing the movie 'Saving Private Ryan', I saw Tom Hanks on TV and he mentioned it." Bedford then called his father to confirm it and it was then, last January, that he knew he had to do something to help pay tribute to the Americans who helped win the largest war of all time.

It's called the "Honor Walk" and Bedford is proud to be walking in honor of his father, who served during World War II. "How many sons can say, 'I gave my dad a memorial'? To me it would be the greatest gift I could give to a man I love and respect with all my heart."

Bedford said it took the Non-Commissioned Officers Association about 60 seconds to agree to be his sponsor. In fact, Command Sgt. Maj. (Ret.) Roger Putman, President of NCOA said, "The NCOA is proud to honor the men and women who defended our country in World War II. We encourage everyone who can to join Command Sgt. Maj. Bedford on portions of the route, and to make donations to the Memorial in the name of NCOA Memorial Honor Walk."

Reactions from onlookers have been pretty overwhelming, recalls Bedford, as he suddenly becomes very serious reflecting back to his first day on the walk. He spoke of a woman who pulled up beside him and told him there was an old man down the street in the nursing home who didn't have long to live. "She said it would mean a lot if I could visit him; they call him Colonel." The next day he went to the nursing home near Foley, Ala., and found Colonel.

He was about 92 and didn't speak but he listened intently when Bedford told him about what he was doing and about the honor walk. He also thanked him for serving his country and providing us the freedoms we have today. Bedford was reaching in his pocket to get a coin to present to Colonel when above his bed he noticed a retirement certificate. Tears filled the old man's eyes when Bedford gave him a coin and simply said, "Thank-you General."

Master Sgt. Debra Wilcox was one of the USARC soldiers who met Bedford when he walked through Georgia. She is the NCOA Chapter Chairperson for the metro Atlanta area. "I'm glad we're finally doing something to honor and preserve the memory of those who sacrificed for us and defended our freedom." Wilcox added, " I salute Command Sgt. Maj. Bedford for his initiative in everything he is doing and it was honor to provide support."

NCOA Membership Developer Command Sgt. Maj. (Ret.) Oscar Barker is traveling with Bedford. He was not at all surprised to see USARC soldiers out on the route. "The USARC is our number one supporter in Atlanta, bar none." He added, "If it wasn't for the USARC I don't know that we would even have a chapter in Atlanta."

"How many sons can say, 'I gave my dad a memorial'? To me it would be the greatest gift I could give to a man I love and respect with all my heart."

Command Sgt. Major Ronald Bedford

Right now ground breaking for the Memorial is scheduled for Veteran's Day 2000. Bedford thinks this is a no-go. He said, "Do you realize that about 1,000 WWII vets die each day? If we wait, who will be around to enjoy it?" Bedford wants that first shovel in the ground "this century". He said, "It is for the veterans, but it's also for those on the home front who contributed to the war effort. This will be the first national memorial acknowledging the commitment and achievement of the entire nation."

For more information about the "Honor Walk" and the National World War II Memorial visit: www.ww2walk.com. and www.wwiimemorial.com.

(Starmer is with the Public Affairs Office, USARC)

RIO GRANDE '99

464TH Ch

Story and photos by Jack Gordon

FORT BLISS, Texas — When the 99th Regional Support Command's 464th Chemical Brigade claims to have "heavy smokers," they aren't kidding.

With the Johnstown, Pa. unit serving as the command and control element for more than 2,000 soldiers representing U.S. Army Reserve units from 13 states and seven of the 10 CONUS-based RSCs, the smoke generated during Rio Grande '99 is making it the largest exercise involving smoke operations since World War II.

"We actually have about three-fourths of the Army's chemical assets in the Army Reserve," said Lt. Col. Richard Kiehart, Deputy Commander, 464th, and Rio Grande '99 exercise commander. "The integration of all these units for the overall mission is very unique, since we seldom function in this capacity."

Although the lion's share percentage of the units here to "blow smoke" are within the chemical corps and oriented to smoke generation, military police are also playing an important role.

"Normally, we would be providing law enforcement in a garrison environment, said Command Sgt. Maj. Jerry Farmer, 336th Military Police Battalion, Pittsburgh. "Here

See SMOKE, page 30

Top left, Soldiers on the smoke unit's perimeter patrol emerge from a fog oil mist covering the desert floor at fast business.

Above, Thick fog bellows from the triple nipples of the business end of a smoke generator.

Top right, With three smoke platoons strategically located, the 464th "socked in" the entire, expansive flatlands of Fort Bliss' McGregor Range.

Far right, Pvt. Warren Webster, 370th Chemical Co., Jonesboro, Arkansas, 90th RSC, stands guard at his position during a smoke mission at Rio Grande '99, Fort Bliss, Texas.

Near right, From a point high atop a windswept desert sand dune, Capt. Craig Minnick, Sgt. Roger Walkovich, and 1st Lt. Valerie kikal, HHD, 464th Chemical Brigade, Johnstown, Pa., check terrain features on a map to assess possibilities for the next smoke mission.

emical Brigade - "HEAVY SMOKERS!"

Aviation unit does high-altitude search and rescue on Mt. Rainier

Left to right, park Service aviation coordinator Mike Carney, a park ranger, Seattle television reporter John Stoffiet, doing a feature on the mission, and another park ranger wait for the helicopter pick up high atop Mt. Rainier.

Story and photos by Ed Quimby

Whenever hikers and climbers are missing, stranded or injured above 10,000 feet on Mount Rainier, A Company of the 5/159th Aviation Regiment may get a request for assistance. Based at Gray Army Airfield, Fort Lewis, Wash., the Reserve aviation unit is tasked with inserting and extracting National Park Service emergency search-and-rescue (SAR) teams on the mountain.

A Company inherited these high-altitude SAR missions at Mount Rainier National Park in July 1998, when the active Army aviation unit previously tasked with the responsibility was deactivated. Since then, A Company has performed training missions and actual missions atop the peak.

The training missions gave Army Reserve instructor pilot Steven Odd some time to show his Chinook pilots and flight engineers the nuances of various mountain-specific maneuvers — such as slippery slope two-wheel touchdowns and takeoffs — with attention to updrafts and other environmental factors. The training missions also gave National Park Service aviation coordinator Mike Carney some time for his park rangers on the SAR teams to practice working in concert with the Army Reserve aviation crew.

From Gray Army Airfield, the Chinook helicopter usually flies to Kautz Creek near the base of the mountain to pick up Carney and the park ranger SAR teams. The combined group performs insertion and extraction routines at locations from roughly 10,000 feet to the summit.

SAR missions can arise from various scenarios. On June 22, A Company searched for a missing snowboarder on the Muir snowfield, on the southeast side of the mountain. Cloud cover necessitated flying by instruments some of the time, so a complete search wasn't possible. After foul weather grounded the mission on the next day, the Chinook flew two sorties on the third day.

The first picked up 20 rescue personnel from Kautz Creek and set them down in multiple locations in the vicinity of Camp Muir at 10,000 feet. The second picked up eight more Park Service personnel and flew search patterns working potential routes, crevasses and tree lines for signs of the lost snowboarder. He was never found.

Then on June 30, two climbers got into trouble when they lost one of their packs during a climb of Liberty Ridge ice face at the 13,000 level. They requested help by cell phone. The first Chinook sortie to rescue them was turned back by a squall line. The second sortie, flying by instruments some of the time, inserted a 10-person rescue team at that elevation and returned to await an expected extraction. The third sortie picked up the team and the two rescued climbers. Because the rescue team was able to resolve hunger, dehydration and hypothermia problems, the rescued climbers did not require medical attention.

In addition to the high-altitude SAR mission, A Company provides mission support for all of the Army's active and Reserve components at Fort Lewis, Wash., as well as for the Navy, Coast Guard, Air Force and Marines.

A Company's previous tours of duty

Army Reserve Chinook practices search and rescue missions on the Northwest's highest peak. The Chinook is from the 5/159th Aviation Company, Fort Lewis, Wash. The unit recently took part in several real rescue missions.

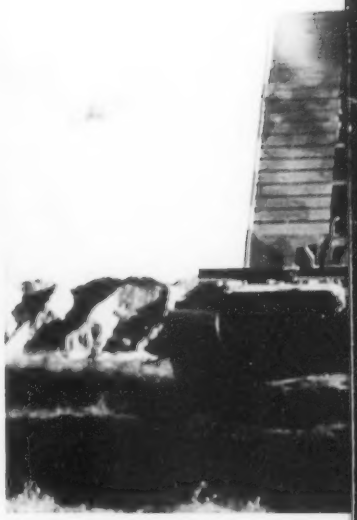
View through the cockpit as a Chinook approaches a landing area on Mt. Rainer.

include three months fighting wildfires in four northwestern states in 1994, and activation for "Operation Uphold Democracy" under command of the United Nations in Haiti during 1995 and 1996. The unit is under the 5/159th Aviation Battalion, Fort Eustis, Va.

(Quimbly is with the Public Affairs Office, 70th RSC)

A Seattle Televison cameraman follows Mike Carney, park service aviation coordinator on the awaiting Chinook.

Right, Spc. Bruce Lawrence and Pfc. Brent Paquette drive an AVLB into place over a tactical ditch which is designed to stop tanks and armored vehicles. Below, A long day comes to an end as a soldier in Charlie Company takes notes during the LANES training out briefing.



Spc. Kevin Hayes gives the order for his squad and APC to cross the recently placed AVLB.

Hayes' squad advances across an AVLB with a mine clearing missile launcher in tow.

479th Clears the way

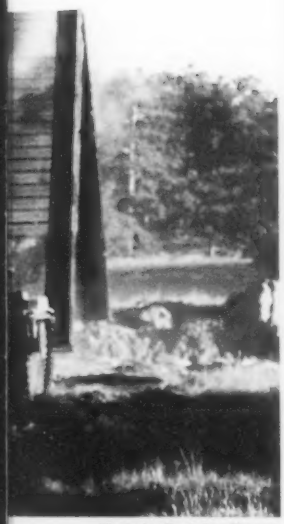


Photo by Capt. Lee Fregoe

Story and photos by Chet Marcus

An explosion booms across a narrow field as thick clouds of smoke cover the landscape. In the distant tree line the sounds of military machinery echo through Fort Drum. Morning air is turned orange and purple by the dawn light. Foot soldiers dart out of the tree line followed by Armored Personnel Carriers (APC's) and begin the skillful task of clearing the way for the advancing unit.

Photo by Capt. Lee Fregoe

Lead by Capt. Mickey Smith, a corrections officer in Malone, NY., the 59 soldiers of Charlie Company, 479th Engineer Battalion are engaged in realistic training as part of a LANES Exercise. LANES is a controlled series of training events that give a unit commander the ability to assess his unit's readiness.

C Company's mission was to clear a mine field as quickly as possible, tactically advance, blow up a barbed wire fence with torpedoes and cross a tank ditch with support from their Armored Vehicle Launched Bridge (AVLB).

Spc. Kevin Hayes also a corrections officer, from Dickenson Center, NY is an APC commander with eleven years of service. His 8-man squad was one of the first to complete breaching the mine field and tank ditch. He said, "the training is good but, we could have used more sleep. We have been out here for ten days and it's been non-stop the whole time."

As with all LANES training the unit is evaluated on mission essential tasks and it must train to Army standards, not time. The Officer in Charge (OIC) of the LANES evaluation team, Capt. Bernard R. Lindstrom of the 2d Training Support Battalion, 1st Army, is confident that the 479th can accomplish their war time mission. During the end-of-training briefing he said, "The most important thing isn't whether or not you execute perfectly but that you learn from what you did." Lindstrom added, "LANES training is the most valuable and realistic training a unit receives all year."

(Marcus is with the Public Affairs Office of the 77th RSC)

Army Reservists Take Part in

Story and photos by Mr. Tony Johnson

HYTHE, England – A huge cargo ship slowly sinking in the middle of a busy harbor is usually cause for alarm — but not if it's the 400-foot long Motor Vessel (MV) American Cormorant. Partially submerging is how the American Cormorant off-loads its cargo of ocean-going tugboats, landing craft and equipment and supplies it carries for the Army. Once it is partially submerged, the cargo is simply floated off.

Downloading the five landing craft, three 100-foot tug boats, gasoline barge, and 100-ton floating crane from the American Cormorant was just one part of Operation Big Red 99. The exercise joined American and British forces in one of the largest combined maritime and Logistics Over-the-Shore (LOTS) exercises in nearly a decade. Most of the exercise took place in southern England at the Combat Equipment Base - North Atlantic (CEB-NA), at the port town of Hythe; but it began weeks earlier and half-a-world away.

Army Reservists from all over the United States joined active duty US forces and British Army active duty and reserve personnel in this small English port town for the training exercises and operational missions employing the watercraft and cargo-handling equipment brought from pre-positioned maritime storage.

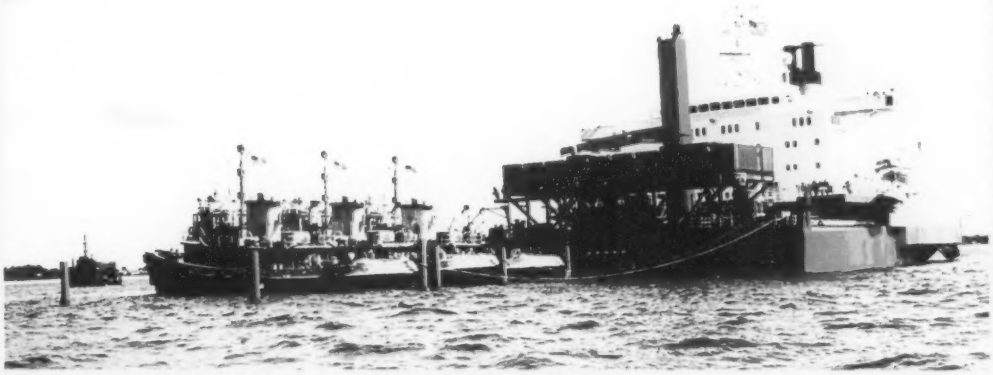
"Soldiers are actually using the landing craft, tug boats, forklifts, and all the equipment, for real missions. They're receiving real-world training. We're also learning a lot about how to do it even better in the future," said Lt. Col. Cory Youmans, of the 143d Transportation Company and task force commander for the exercise. The 143rd, based in Orlando, Fla. led the two-week training exercise.

The American Cormorant is one of several forward-deployed pre-positioned heavy-lift ships in the Army's inventory, and is the only semi-submersible cargo transport vessel in the Army War Reserve system. When called upon, one or more of the ships can quickly get under-way and rendezvous at an appointed site with everything necessary to turn a beach into an operating expedient port. Each of the ships return to Hythe periodically so the watercraft and equipment aboard can be inspected, refitted or replaced, as necessary.

The American Cormorant is based at British-owned Diego Garcia Island, in the Indian Ocean, and is part of the US Maritime Pre-Positioned Storage — Army War Reserve stock system. "Pre-Po" operations crews, who can move the fully loaded vessels from their strategic anchorage to a port where an operating crew takes over and sails the ship to a tactical operations area, maintain the vessels.

For Operation Big Red 99, a Pre-Po crew departed Diego Garcia several weeks earlier and sailed the 72,000-ton heavy-lift ship through the Suez Canal and Mediterranean to the Rota, Spain area. An exercise operational crew boarded and continued the cruise to England. During the four-day cruise from Spain, all the boats and equipment on the American Cormorant were prepared for off-loading and operations. Under way preparations included unsealing, oiling and fueling, and testing the equipment, which had been sealed for

Operation Big Red 99



The submerged 400-foot long Motor Vessel (MV) American Cormorant awaits the departure of three 100-foot long tug boats as Operation Big Red '99 begins.

some two years.

Once at Hythe, preparations for the off-load began, and on the evening of June 7 the American Cormorant began its slow partial submersion; a procedure that takes about 10 hours. By the next morning the entire center cargo area of the bright red ship was under water. Army Reservists were already aboard the boats on the American Cormorant, ready to take control of the vessels once they were afloat and clear of their moorings. Even as the American Cormorant continued to submerge, the first landing craft was pulled free by a commercial tugboat. By 11 a.m. the American Cormorant had sunk low enough for all the remaining landing craft, barges and tugboats to float free. Only the top portions of the bow and stern remained above water as the last tugboat pulled away.

"This is a pretty impressive ship," said Staff Sgt. James Spencer, the watercraft operator for one of the landing craft being downloaded. "You don't get to see a ship intentionally sunk everyday." Spencer is a member of the 481st Transportation Company based in Mare Island, Calif.

All the boats then headed to Hythe and the nearby British military port of Marchwood to begin unloading the forklifts, rough-terrain cargo-container handling equipment, and similar devices that had been stored on the boats.

"We're actually getting the chance to drive equipment on and off the landing vessels," said Pfc. Martin Zuniga, a rough terrain container handler with the 211th Transportation Company, of Marina, California.

Zuniga said he was enjoying his first annual training mission and his first trip to Europe.

"I've had training driving forklifts around but not on and off the landing craft. I've learned a lot and it's great to work with some of our British counterparts," he added.

Once everything was off the American Cormorant the exercise began in earnest. Landing craft were used to move a wide-variety of U.S. and British equipment, personnel and supplies. The barge crane was used to raise vessels out of the water for repairs. Port evacuations were conducted in which all the equipment that had been unloaded was loaded back onto the landing craft and moved to another location. Mock-chemical spills had to be dealt with appropriately.

Tugboats were used in a variety of towing missions — from towing vessels with engine trouble back to port, to responding to a mock fire on a barge. In one real-world event one of the tugboats went aground on a sandbar, and one of its sister tugs was called in to help pull the disabled tug free.

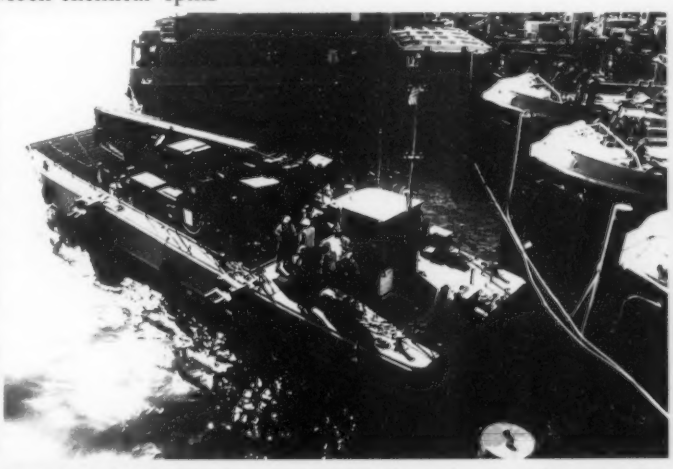
"We didn't plan on getting stuck but we worked through it," said Spc. Anna Benson of the 949th Transportation Company based in Marcus Hook, Pa. "Everyone has been really working together throughout the exercise, even though we're from different units from all over the U.S," she added.

"This is a good exercise for Hythe and for the units that come here," said Maj. Linwood Clark, commander of the U.S. Army Combat Equipment Base - North Atlantic at Hythe where Big Red 99 was staged. "It helps us to have other people looking at the vessels and helping us evaluate what repairs need to be done."

Royal Army Lt. Col. Will Watt added, "We've been really impressed with the commitment and professionalism of all the U.S. soldiers participating in Operation Big Red 99. We have gained invaluable cross-training and a better understanding of U.S. forces." Watt is senior officer of the 496th Logistic Liaison Unit, British Royal Logistics Corps, British Army.

"This has been a great experience. I'm ready to come back anytime," Benson concluded.

(Johnson is with the Public Affairs Office, USARC)



The first landing craft is released from its moorings on the American Cormorant and is pulled away once the Cormorant has partially submerged.

Army Reserve Apache unit deploys to Bosnia

Photo by Sgt. Maj. Mary Starmer

Soldiers of the 8/229th Aviation Attack Bn., (attack) board the plane for their first leg of deployment to Bosnia.

By Mr. Tony Johnson

Editors Note: The 8/229th is currently in Bosnia providing armed aerial convoy protection and reconnaissance for the 10th Mountain Division.

ATLANTA — It was a hot, humid and overcast day in South Georgia. The soldiers from the U.S. Army Reserve 8/229th Aviation Battalion (Attack), weighed down with their gear climbed aboard the lone-commercial airliner sitting on the airfield at Fort Benning, Ga. There were no crowds to see them off - a special family day had been held a couple of weeks earlier at their home base at Fort Knox, Ky., as their official send-off. There were no mobs of media present to cover the story – most everyone seems to have lost interest in this type of mission. But it was a very real and important mission; very exciting and even scary for these soldiers as they left their families, their friends and their jobs for six months to do their part in supporting the ongoing NATO peacekeeping operations in Bosnia.

"I'm ready to get there, ready to do our job and ready to get back home," said Spec. Cristal Fox, a 20-year old ammunition specialist who has been with the unit for about three years. A criminology major at the University of Louisville, Fox will be taking a break from her studies as she learns first-hand about the sometimes volatile balance of peace and power in the Balkans region. "I think it will be a great learning experience. A chance to learn about different people and their culture. I'm excited about going." Fox leaves behind her parents, Lisa and Thomas Clay of Louisville, and her cat and pet rabbit. "My folks are nervous but proud. My dad has served in the military and he's very proud of what I'm doing."

For several months now members of the 8/229th have been preparing for this mission. The unit received notice about a year ago that they would be heading to Bosnia and they have been training rigorously ever since.

"I've been training for a mission like this for eight years. I know we're trained and ready to do this. To be honest, I'm kind of excited about going," said Sgt. Rob Welborn, an Apache mechanic with the unit. "I will miss my family," he added. Welborn leaves behind his wife and son in Owensboro, Ky. He also leaves his job in an aluminum plant, but says his employer is very supportive of his Reserve duty.

Photo by Tony Johnson

Family members wave goodbye as members of the 8/229 board plane for departure to Bosnia.

"My parents are so proud they can't stand it," added Welborn. The 8/229th are one of only two Apache units in the Army Reserve. These are the same Apache attack helicopters profiled in

See APACHE, page 25

U.S. Army Reserve photo

8/229 soldiers prepare units Apache's for shrink wrap and shipment to Bosnia.

Army Reserve exhibit on the road across America

Photo by Capt. Cheryl Phillips

Army Reserve soldiers share information with visitors to the national display at the DoD Joint Services Open House at Andrews Air Force Base, Md.

WASHINGTON-Army Reserve soldiers are on the road across the country throughout the year with the National Exhibit Program. The program brings a high-profile presence to more than 25 national events where community, business, media and political leaders gather. This year's calendar includes participation in the annual conferences of the Reserve Officers Association, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and League of United Latin American Citizens, with more events planned for upcoming years.

A key component of the program is the use of displays where Office of the Chief, Army Reserve (OCAR) staff and local Army Reserve soldiers work together to highlight organizational accomplishments and goals. Other integral parts include vehicle and equipment displays, and performances by Army Reserve bands, vocal groups, color guards and drill teams. Together, they communicate the message that the Army Reserve is an increasingly important part of our nation's military defense and the welfare of communities across the country.

Major Army Reserve commands have received a tabletop version of the OCAR display for use at regional events where an Army Reserve presence would be beneficial. These might include Chamber of Commerce meetings, open houses and fairs.

For information about the program and how your command can increase its participation, contact Sgt. 1st Class Troy Falardeau, OCAR Marketing Branch, at (703) 601-0870.

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Emond

A 8/229 soldier guides an Apache into its hanger while depolyed to Bosnia.

APACHE
From page 24

recent months in various news stories as being the most advanced helicopter in the U.S. Army's inventory.

The Apache flies low and fast and uses computerized targeting systems to help it knock-out enemy tanks with armor-piercing laser-guided Hellfire missiles, which can strike targets up to three miles away. The Apache has a range of 299 miles, with a cruising speed of 184 mph and maximum speed of 227 mph dependent on weather conditions and other factors. It can be equipped with 16 Hellfire missiles or 76 2.75-inch rockets. It is also equipped with a 30-mm gun normally loaded with 1000 rounds.

Sixteen Apaches were shrink-wrapped for protection and shipped over to Croatia via military freighter after being flown to Howland Hook container port on Staten Island, N.Y., by members of the 8/229th. The Apaches will be waiting for the soldiers when they arrive in Tusla, Bosnia.

While in Bosnia the mission for the 8/229th is to help maintain the peace and provide support as needed for NATO's efforts in the region.

"If we can save lives by our presence, then I'm glad that we can be there," said Sgt. 1st Class Rick Voeltner, the non-commissioned officer in charge of the administrative section of the unit. Voeltner lives at Fort Knox with his wife, Katerina, and their two children.

Pfc. Donald Drake just graduated from his military advanced individual training school in July as an aircraft structural repairer. The 18-year-old Louisville, Ky., resident says he joined the Army Reserve for adventure and training and he's getting both right away. Drake will be leaving for Bosnia with the next group from the 8/229th within approximately a week.

"This is awesome. I'm ready to go. This will be the experience of a lifetime," said Drake as he watched his fellow unit members boarding the plane.

Camie Smallwood of Phenix City, Ala., wife of Spec. Darrell Smallwood, echoed the sentiments of the family members of all the 8/229th soldiers when she said, "I know he's doing his job but I'm going to miss him. I just want him to come home safe and sound."

As the aircraft taxied down the runway a small group of family members that had driven to Fort Benning stood together, hugging each other and waving goodbye. Approximately eight hours later the plane would be landing in Germany and from there the soldiers of the 8/229th would be transported to their new temporary home in Tuzla. A long way from home but exactly where their country needs them.

(Johnson is with the Public Affairs Office, USARC)

Photo by Sgt. Derrick Witherspoon

Spc. Danisha M. Crawford, 75th Combat Support Hospital, Tuscaloosa, Ala., pricks a man in the finger to check his sugar levels.

Stand Down 2000

Reservists and community give homeless a hand up, not a hand out

By Sgt. Derrick Witherspoon

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. – When the community reaches out to homeless veterans and their families, it strengthens ties between the homeless and those who really care. Military Reservists, Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) volunteers and members of the local community did just this as they called homeless veterans in from the urban battlefield to give them a hand up, and not a hand out, during "Stand Down 2000. "

Photo by Sgt. Derrick Witherspoon

A homeless man walks away with a box of clothing he received at Stand Down 2000.

Stand Down 2000 is a detailed, two-day tent city event initiated by the White House to provide aid to homeless veterans and their families throughout the United States. It offers them a break from the streets and an opportunity to put their lives back together. At the core of the Stand Down concept is its philosophy and goal to provide "a hand up, not a hand out."

> ***"I just wish everyone who donated stuff could have seen how they helped these people. I just hope I made a difference in someone's life."***
> Sgt. Wendal G. Burks
> Headquarters, 81st RSC

First Lieutenant Sabon Shelton, project officer for the Birmingham, Ala., Stand Down 2000, said the program is focused on helping the homeless get back on their feet.

"Stand Down 2000 is a grassroots concept that started in San Diego, Calif., in 1989, to give homeless veterans a hand up, and not just a hand out," Shelton said.

"'Stand Down' is a military term used when there are troops on the front lines of battle who are exhausted and you pull them in to feed them, give them new clothing and replenish them, so they can be sent back to the battlefield recharged. Here, our battlefield is the street and we have homeless veterans and other homeless families out there that are exhausted and need to be recharged. What we are doing here is providing them with some help by letting them know what assistance is out there for them."

Shelton said they offered approximately 800 homeless people free mental health screenings, dental screenings, physical exams, medical assistance, haircuts, clothing, and food. They also had volunteers from state referral agencies and volunteers from the VA Office to let them know if they qualified for certain benefits.

Jeffery A. Hester, director of public affairs at the Birmingham, Ala., VA Medical Center, said the Veterans Affairs Office was the coordinating force behind Stand Down 2000.

"This program was set up mainly for the homeless veterans, but we did not close the door on anyone who needed our help. We had different agencies here to assist the non-veterans such as the county health department, the state unemployment office, and the charity hospital, which is also Cooper Green Hospital in Birmingham," Hester said. "This was not just a VA effort or a DOD (Department of Defense) effort. It was a combination of a lot of local, state, and county agencies working together. We also had Heather Renee French, Miss America 2000, come down and participate in our Stand Down. So this shows that it takes a community effort to do something like this."

That community not only consisted of civilians, but also Army, Navy, and Air Force Reservists from around the area. Army Reserve units involved in

the Birmingham Stand Down included: Headquarters, 81st Regional Support Command and the 5th Medical Group, both from Birmingham, Ala.; 75th Combat Support Hospital, Tuscaloosa, Ala.; and the 100th Division, Louisville, Ky.

Hester said without the help of the reservists, there would not have been any way the Stand Down could have been as successful as it was.

"The Army, Navy, and Air Force Reserve support was instrumental in getting everything set up. On a scale of one to 10, the U.S. Army Reserve is an 11," Hester said.

Army Reservists from major subordinate commands (MSC) under the 81st RSC also provided assistance to other VA offices that hosted Stand Downs in various cities throughout the Southeast. The 642nd Area Support Group, Fort Gordon, Ga., and the 332nd Medical Brigade, Nashville, Tenn., had a number of units from their commands that participated in these Stand Downs.

Sergeant Wendal G. Burks, Headquarters, 81st RSC, said he had no idea how rewarding helping the homeless would be.

"I didn't know what Stand Down 2000 was really about until I got there. I never realized there were so many homeless people in the area. It really makes you humble," Burks said. "I just wish everyone who donated stuff could have seen how they helped these people. I just hope I made a difference in someone's life."

Specialist Stepney Rudolph, 1207th U.S. Army Hospital, Fort Benning, Ga., said it felt great to take part in Stand Down 2000.

"For most of us, this is our first time doing this and I hope it's not our last. It made me feel good to be able to take my military medical skills and help these people out. I would really like to volunteer for this next year if they have it," Rudolph said.

Marvin L. Driver, a homeless veteran, said he knows all the homeless people Stand Down 2000 helped really appreciate what Burks, Rudolph, and the other reservists, along with the community, did for them.

"This is really a great thing they did. There are a lot of homeless people out there and we need and appreciate as much help as we can get," Driver said.

Photo by Sgt. Derrick Witherspoon

Top right, A homeless man laces a pair of military combat boots he received at Stand Down 2000 as he sits under a U.S. Army Reserve Banner.

Right, Heather Renee French, Miss America, helps a man place clothing in his duffel bag. (Photo by Paul Adams)

Below, Sgt. Wendal G. Burks, Headquarters, 81st RSC, helps a young boy lace a pair of military combat boots he received at Stand Down 2000. Aproximately 800 homeless people were received over two days. (Photo by Sgt. Derrick Witherspoon)

"Things like this let us know someone is thinking about us. I would really like to see this again next year."

Hester said they would have to evaluate the success of this Stand Down to see if they would host one next year.

"We plan on re-evaluating and seeing how things went this time and then we will go back and look everything over and make a decision, but we still plan to continue helping the homeless in what ever way we can," Hester Said. "If that means hosting another Stand Down, then that is what we will do."

(Witherspoon is with the Public Affairs Office, 81st RSC)

Marching on – Three Generations of Army Women

By Lt. Col. Randy Pullen

A considerable amount of women's history gathered in the Women in Military Service for America (WIMSA) Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery recently.

A. Heather Coyne was commissioned as an Army Reserve Second Lieutenant in the Hall of Heroes at the WIMSA Memorial. Coyne has not begun yet to make women's history but the two women pinning on her gold bars certainly have. The Army they first joined is considerably different for women than the one Coyne joins.

Pinning on one bar was Brig. Gen. Karol A. Kennedy, Deputy Commanding General of the Army Reserve's 99th Regional Support Command and one of the first Army Reserve female generals. Kennedy had started out as an enlisted soldier in 1963 and was commissioned two years later after graduating from the Women's Army Corps (WAC) Officers Candidate School (OCS) at Fort McClellan, Ala.

Placing the other bar on Coyne's shoulder was the woman who had commissioned Kennedy back in 1965, retired Brig. Gen. Elizabeth P. Hoisington. The seventh director of the Women's Army Corps (1966-1971), she was the first WAC officer to become a general officer when she was promoted to brigadier general on June 11, 1970.

Hoisington's Army service goes back to a time when women soldiers were not officially a part of the Army (except for the Army Nurse Corps), to when the WAC was still the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC). She enlisted in the WAAC in November 1942. Like Kennedy, she was an OCS graduate, although her commission in May 1943 made her a WAAC Third Officer instead of a 2nd Lieutenant. When the WAAC became the WAC a month later, the officer ranks were changed to the standard Army officer ranks.

The story of how these three women came to be at the WIMSA Memorial for a commissioning ceremony goes back about a year, to 1998. Coyne works in the Office of Management and Budget's National Security Division. Among her responsibilities are evaluating programs, budgets and policies for the Defense Department. A coworker at OMB, who handles Reserve personnel issues and knew of Coyne's interest in the Army Reserve, suggested she call Kennedy, who in her civilian job is the Deputy Comptroller in the Office of the Chief, Army Reserve.

Photo by Lt. Col. Randy Pullen

Brig. Gen. Karol A. Kennedy, (left) Deputy Commanding General, 99th Regional Support Command and Brig. Gen. (ret) Elizabeth P. Hoisington (right) pin on A. Heather Coyne's gold bars during her commissioning ceremony.

Coyne told Kennedy that she wanted to get into Army Reserve Civil Affairs ("I wanted to do Civil Affairs long before I knew it was called that or that it existed anywhere," Coyne explained. "Then I discovered the Army Reserve has an entire branch dedicated to it."), but was not sure the best way to go about doing that. Kennedy put Coyne in touch with 1st Lt. Andreas Thum at the 99th RSC. After looking at the options, Kennedy and Thum suggested to Coyne that she apply for a direct commission and assisted her in getting through the process. The end result was the Hall of Heroes ceremony.

Coyne received a commission as a Military Intelligence officer and will be assigned to the 220th Military Police Brigade, 99th RSC, in Gaithersburg, Md. Eventually, she can go to Civil Affairs school and get into a CA unit but for now, she recognizes the value of gaining experience in a MP unit, especially since many types of CA and MP missions are closely related.

When the commissioning process was nearing its conclusion, Coyne asked Kennedy if she would commission her, which Kennedy readily agreed to do. Coyne asked Kennedy if she had any ideas about where to hold the ceremony.

"Have I got an idea for that!" Kennedy said and immediately suggested the WIMSA Memorial. She also had an idea of whom should pin on Coyne's other gold bar.

"When I was commissioned, General Elizabeth Hoisington was the officer who did it," Kennedy said. "She was commander of the WAC Center then. She was my role model. I knew I wanted to grow to be like General Hoisington, as an officer and a soldier and a lady. I asked her if she would take part in the ceremony and she said she would."

Coyne was delighted with Kennedy's choices.

"I can't tell you how thrilled I was that General Kennedy and General Hoisington agreed to perform the ceremony," Coyne said, "and what more appropriate site than the Women's Memorial, whose goal is to 'honor military women, past, present and future'. Without General Kennedy, I don't know if I would ever have gotten to this point. To have both her and her own mentor pin on my bars, well, they've set a tradition for excellence for themselves and for others that I'll do my best to follow.

"I hope I can do as much for the next generation of Army women — and anyone who wants to serve — as they did for me," she added.

Prior to administering the oath to Coyne, Kennedy related to the large audience of Coyne's friends that she had asked her if had any hesitation about taking the step she was taking, to become an Army Reserve officer. Her answer to Kennedy left no doubt about that.

"Heather told me, 'I want this with all my heart!" Kennedy said.

With that, Kennedy administered the oath to Coyne, then Hoisington came forward and helped pin on her 2nd Lieutenant bars.

Now, as Kennedy said at the commissioning ceremony, is the time for Coyne to begin her journey, as she takes up her duties and responsibilities as an Army

See MARCHING, page 31

Ambassadors to the U.S. Army Reserve get "up close and personal" with soldiers at annual training

By Jack Gordon

FORT BLISS, Texas — They've come from the far north of Mid-Atlantic America to get a taste of what life in the field is like for today's Army Reserve soldier, and they're getting it … all the way down to the MREs!

U.S. Army Reserve ambassadors from states representing the 99TH Regional Support Command have converged here to see "what's right" and "what's wrong" with duty in the Army Reserve.

"I think one of the solutions we can offer is translating the Reserve soldier's service to the public," said U.S. Army Reserve Ambassador for West Virginia, James C. Hunt, "from the community to the employer, and bringing an increased awareness to these groups."

In an agenda that rivaled the duty day for soldiers participating in Rio Grande '99 here, the ambassadors were treated to an open, two-way communications line with soldiers in formats as formal as flip-chart information, structure and mission session briefings, and as informal as sharing a plate of the unit's "field mess" while the sun slowly dipped below the evening horizon on McGregor Range.

Between the briefings and visits to several participating units, and the exercise mission overview from the 464th Chemical Brigade – the command and control element of Rio Grande '99 — the Ambassadors are gaining information which will be used, ultimately – to help better service opportunities and enhance the quality of life for the Army Reserve soldier.

"We ask you to remind the American public that we are half of America's (Army) combat strength, the Guard and Reserve. We're trained in special skills, exemplify the principles of leadership, and we're dedicated," said Lt. Col. Michael Scotto, commander, 695th Corps Support Battalion, Fort Tilden, N.Y., 77th RSC.

And indeed, after three days of "field duty," the Ambassadors, accompanied and escorted by 99th Deputy Commander, Brig. Gen. Karol Kennedy, were better informed about the challenges and the dilemmas … as well as the dedication … of today's Army Reserve soldier.

Kennedy stressed the significance of individual soldiers using the existing Employer Support of the Guard Reserve program, and its importance as a vehicle to better relations between the Reserve soldier and employers — the most identified problem area by soldiers here.

Other common areas of concern addressed by both soldiers and Ambassadors were: junior officer accession; the need for motivational, realistic, and meaningful training; mid to senior NCO and officer pay disparities; military school quota availability; low frequency of their unit's ability to train with units in their actual war-trace alignment; and, of course, recruiting and retention vs. attrition problems.

Family support and increasing mobilization frequency also ranked high in the list of areas these soldiers are hopeful the ambassadors will address to the appropriate action-agents for change.

The residual effects of downsizing shortfalls are also of concern in an Army which was once told to "do more with less," and is now expected to "do everything with nothing," according to some soldiers.

The 464th also offered the ambassadors an opportunity to see some of the latest developments underway in equipment and weapons technology, including the "Ballistic Laser Eye Protection System," dark glasses which are able to stop small projectile fragments traveling at 650 feet per second, and also protect the eye against three wavelengths of laser light.

Ambassadors were also able to handle first and second generation prototypes of proposed individual weapons and sighting systems, and a myriad of stuff Agent 007 might even be proud of.

Photo by Jack Gordon

Brig. Gen. Karol A. Kennedy, Deputy Commander, 99th RSC, (center), gets a feel for a tripod-mounted MK 19 Automatic Grenade Launcher during her visit to Rio Grande '99 with the 99th RSC Ambassadors. Fred Fair, (right), a 99th RSC Ambassador for Pennsylvania and Sgt. Shawn Bassett, (left), 372nd, MP Co., Fort Meade, Md., look on.

"I think we've been successful in this first effort directed at getting our ambassadors to the soldiers," said Maj. Steve Harmon, Public Affairs Officer, 99th RSC. "We need to get them out in the dirt and mud with the soldiers – that's where the answers … and the questions, are."

(Gordon is with the Public Affairs Office, 99th RSC)

Army Reserve Ambassador program

Joe Thomas is police chief in Southfield, Mich. Coy Short is an executive assistant to Georgia's governor. Kay Austin Schwendiman is a retired newspaper executive. All three are movers and shakers. All three are U.S. Army Reserve ambassadors.

The Ambassador Program, created in April 1998, now includes 59 emissaries representing 34 states and Puerto Rico.

"Ambassadors are my local eyes, ears and voice," says Maj. Gen. Thomas J. Plewes, Chief, Army Reserve (CAR). "They serve as an adviser and consultant on the current and future direction of the Army Reserve."

The CAR wants at least two ambas-

See AMBASSADORS, page 31

464th Smokes the valley

Photo by Jack Gordon

Spc. Brett Brooks, 378th Chemical Co., 88th RSC, Urbana, Ill. leans in to better listen to the battlefield communication of Lt. Col. Rich Kiehart, Deputy Commander, 464th Chemical Brigade, and Rio Grande '99 Commander.

SMOKE
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— we're able to do our higher priority missions — battlefield circulation control and area security." Farmer understands the need and absolute necessity for both.

More than 30 years ago, he served a tour of duty as an Infantry soldier with the First Cavalry Division in Vietnam. He's served in the Army Reserve ever since.

"I'm not quite sure how to define it," Farmer said, "but if it's anything — it's patriotism. Also, there's nothing like the camaraderie of soldiers — I like these people."

At times, with smoke generation platoons "smoking" from up to 12 smoke points simultaneously, the air throughout the entire Dona Ana Maneuver Area bordering U.S. Route 54 through Fort Bliss is wearing a veil similar to what one might expect to see on an early evening in foggy London. But this is smoke … that's safe, and unlike Orson Wells, Kiehart isn't keeping information from a curious public.

"We're in compliance with everything and everyone," Kiehart said. "Our smoke is ecologically safe — it's actually a combination of vegetable oil and minerals. Motorists have been informed through local radio, TV and newspapers about what's going on."

Nearby El Paso print and broadcast media outlets were treated to an up-close and hands-on demonstration of the smoke units' capabilities and mission orientation. Subsequent articles in the El Paso Times and news spots aired on local network affiliates showed the soldiers in action.

The use of smoke in battlefield deception is a time-honored method of conducting and concealing troop movements under a dense, cloudy cloak of obscurity. But … while an enemy once couldn't shoot what it couldn't see, ongoing developments in ground weapons systems using sensitive heat sensors are now able to attach a heat "signature" to targets in the chemical haze, even a human body's 98.6 degrees.

But especially here in the low desert, even without the smoke, land navigation is one of the inherent challenges to the exercise.

"We're fine — we know exactly where we are — at all times," said Spc. Robert Shroyer, 336th MP Battalion, Pittsburgh. Prior to departing for Rio Grande '99, the unit received hand-held Global Positioning Systems as part of the Army's force modernization initiatives.

"As long as you can pick up four satellites, you can determine everything — more are better, but four are enough," said Shroyer, explaining the systems' operation to a fellow soldier. "So we're right here, at these coordinates. It's accurate to plus or minus 12 meters."

Why have Army Reserve units from across America and even farther travel all the way to Fort Bliss to train? For Kiehart, the answer is simple.

"There are very few places with enough open terrain for us to operate like this," Kiehart said. "It's a big operation, and we need a lot of room."

The unique blend of Army Reserve units which, aside from this joint effort at Rio Grande '99 may never serve in a simultaneous similar exercise or operation, has an unmistakable overtone — at every site — of the one element crucial to mission success … teamwork.

Sgt. Shawn Bassett, 372nd MP Company, Fort Meade, Md., only recently transferred to the unit. He did so due to his civilian career in law enforcement, with the knowledge that the training he is receiving will crossover and enhance his civilian occupation opportunities.

"We're all from different units and different places," said Bassett, "but there's a lot of camaraderie out here. We're all working together to get the job done. It's teamwork!"

And why not? After all — they're all "heavy smokers," and you know how they stick together.

(Gordon is with the Public Affairs Office, 99th RSC)

Photo by Jack Gordon

Sgt. Jeffrey minton, 220th MP Bde. (left) shows Spc. Robert Shroyer, 336th MP Bn., Pittsburgh, just "exactly" where they are in the desert...using a hand-held global postioning system.

Army Reserve Ambassadors local eyes and ears of community

AMBASSADORS
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sadors in every state and territory, preferably by the end of FY 00. Ambassadors are appointed by the CAR based on nominations from general officer commanders. Initial appointments are three years; the CAR must approve extensions. Ambassadors receive administrative support and mission guidance from local commands, and strategic direction from the CAR via his Public Affairs and Liaison Directorate (PALD).

Office of the Chief, Army Reserve (OCAR) conducts an annual ambassador's conference in Washington, D.C. The FY 00 conference is scheduled for spring. Commanders are expected to attend the conference with their ambassadors.

Duties for ambassadors run the gamut, depending on the individual's time and comfort zone. At a minimum, ambassadors are expected regularly to brief civic organizations and leaders at the local and state levels on USAR missions and capabilities. Units should invite ambassadors to major military events, such as holiday balls, changes of command, open houses, etc.

Some examples of recent ambassador activities:

Charles Beach Jr. gave a presentation to the Kentuckians for Better Transportation board of directors. M. Tyrone Rowell, a university administrator in North Carolina, spoke to academic officials about the need to educate journalism students on the military's role. He also attended the 81st RSC commander's conference and met with Wilmington, N.C., Army recruiters.

Coy Short is actively supporting an initiative to have distinctive license plates for Army Reservists in Georgia. Pasha Baker in Hawaii worked a collection booth during a school supplies drive for the needy, a program supported by local Army Reservists.

Ambassadors are selected based on influence and stature within the community and ability to work closely with senior USAR leaders. Military experience is not a requirement. Ambassador Jeff Woods, a member of the West Virginia State College ROTC hall of fame, served one tour as an Army attorney. Eber Phelps, a member of the Kansas state legislature, has never worn a military uniform. Mary Miller of Washington is a retired sergeant major.

There is one restriction – nominees cannot be Reservists.

Nomination packets are available from the local command's public affairs officer or community outreach coordinator.

Point of contact for the Ambassador Program at OCAR is Ms. Maureen Nolet, (703) 601-0869.

FINANCE
From page 9

a separate "Student Loan Repayment Program" SLRP W-2 if you received any repayment of your student loans during 1999. If you have any questions on DITY or SLRP W-2s, please contact the Customer Service Center, DFAS-Indianapolis at commercial 317-510-2800, DSN 699-2800, toll free 1-888-PAY-ARMY (1-888-729-2769).

MARCHING
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Reserve officer and strives to get into Civil Affairs. Coyne has no illusions about how demanding and busy, if also rewarding, that Civil Affairs will be. There are also still plenty of challenges facing women in the Army that she will encounter.

Whatever the challenges and difficulties ahead, Coyne knows that a considerable amount of trail has already been broken by the two pioneers who went before her, the same two women history-makers who pinned on her gold bars at the Women's Memorial at Arlington.

(Pullen is with the Public Affairs and Liaison Directorate, OCAR)

CSM John E. "Jack" Rucynski Distinguished 37-year career comes to end

By Command Sgt. Maj John E. "Jack" Rucynski (Ret)

Over the last several years I have written numerous articles and speeches, the words seemed to flow easily, but the previous articles were not to say good-bye. I have procrastinated for days trying to find the right words to say the right things. How do you properly sum up a career that has spanned 37 years? How do you say thank you to a nation that has allowed you to serve for so many years; and to thousands of soldiers who have stood side by side with you in good times and bad times.

I have had the great privilege of serving with the greatest military in the world; each branch of service has unique qualities, they are all special in my book. I have had the honor of serving in two branches, and I have had the honor of working side by side with each of the services, no American can ask for more than that in one lifetime.

Saving the most important part for the summation and clearly those that serve above and beyond, our family members. No doubt in my mind, that without the support of my Army family and especially my wife Kathy, I would have not accomplished all that we did, she has been a big part of the Team as are all family members. The military has been easy for me, I say that because of two very special people, my parents Chuck and Hilda Rucynski, they instilled in me a work ethic that made both the Marine Corps and the Army a piece of cake. Do your job, be where your suppose to be when your suppose to be there, give an honest days work for an honest days pay and the rewards will follow.

Thanks America, thanks to my fellow soldiers for having allowed Kathy and I to serve our Country, we will miss you and all you have meant to us. Staff Sgt. Fiore, wherever you may be, Thanks.

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